



**BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL
BUSINESS COUNCIL**

BRIDGEPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
STRAITFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TRUMBULL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BRIDGEPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
LEADERSHIP GREATER BRIDGEPORT
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

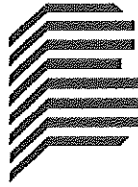
March 7, 2013

Dear Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Paul Timpanelli. I am the President and CEO of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, a not for profit advocacy organization representing more than 1000 members in the Greater Bridgeport area. Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 6437, an act establishing a Mattress Stewardship program. I enthusiastically support this proposal to create a win-win for Connecticut --- the disposal of mattresses in an environmentally appropriate manner while creating green jobs and business opportunities for Connecticut workers and entrepreneurs.

The Bridgeport Regional Business Council created a public / private partnership with the City of Bridgeport in 2008 to create a comprehensive sustainability green print for the City that supports Mayor Finch's desire to be one of the cleanest and greenest communities in America. That effort has led to many important achievements in energy conservation and renewable generation; significant improvements in our recycling rates; better approaches to storm water management and water conservation; the revitalization of parklands and our waterfront; greater emphasis on transit first policies; and the creation of several new green businesses in Bridgeport including Solar Change, Flexi-Pave, Bridgeport Biodiesel, and Park City Green, the State's first mattress recycling facility.

As many of you know, mattresses are a nuisance product in our waste stream. They cause problems and pollution in our resource recovery facilities, and out of state landfilling creates a needless carbon footprint and increasing costs at a time when we in Bridgeport have proven that recycling is not only viable, but economically feasible and environmentally sustainable. Our mattress recycling facility is creating jobs for those re-entering the workforce, reusing commodities that have value, improving air quality in a non-attainment corridor, and helping us attract other green businesses to our Eco-Industrial Park. Bridgeport's image as a sustainable community is enhanced by Park City Green's mission and work.



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Others have testified to the real need for this stewardship effort from a solid waste management perspective and I agree with their reasoning. Mattresses, like paints, tires, and electronic equipment, need special attention and their appropriate disposal shouldn't needlessly burden municipalities or other waste management systems. They are a unique product that can be viewed as a resource for recycling and reuse, not for burning or landfilling. There is a better way, and Connecticut is poised to be a national model in demonstrating that way!

Last year, this bill had many supporters and some adversaries. But through the hard work of both the stewardship proponents and the International Sleep Products Association, the Bill before you is an example of public / private cooperation, with limited government involvement, and a shift in the cost of disposal from taxpayers to manufacturers and consumers, where it rightfully belongs. That cooperative process is also a model, one that should be rewarded by passing this Bill immediately, thereby, creating jobs and entrepreneurial opportunity for Connecticut workers and businesses, and improving the health and environmental quality in our State. It is a triple bottom-line win . . . economic prosperity, environmental stewardship and social progress, and we at the Bridgeport Regional Business Council applaud those results.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Timpanelli, President and CEO
Bridgeport Regional Business Council